

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic control system comprising:
a first and a second microcomputers programmed to control a first object and a second object, respectively;
the first microcomputer having a monitor program for checking a malfunction of the second microcomputer at a predetermined interval;
the first microcomputer including timer means and timer setting means;
the timer means ~~being for~~ counting time; and ~~for~~ switching an output logic level of a port thereof when a time count reaches a predetermined value; and
the timer setting means ~~being for~~ setting a new time count in place of the time counted by the timer means when the second microcomputer is operating normally and the monitor program is executed normally;
wherein the timer setting means monitors an interval of executing the monitor program and sets the new time count when that interval is within an acceptable range.

2. (Currently Amended) An electronic control system as in claim 1, wherein:
the timer means decreases the time count and switches the output logic level when the time count reaches zero; and

the timer setting means sets ~~the~~ a new time count which is longer than the predetermined interval ~~off~~or executing the monitor program.

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic control system as in claim 1, wherein:
the monitor program ~~includes a first step of determining~~determines whether a calculating result by the second microcomputer is normal, and ~~a second step of determining~~determines whether a start timing and end timing of ~~executing the~~ monitor program execution is normal or whether ~~an executing~~execution procedure of the monitor program is in order; and

the timer setting means sets the new time count when the ~~determination of the first and second steps~~determination are affirmative.

Claim 4 - cancelled.

5. (Currently Amended) An electronic control system as in claim 1, wherein:
the second microcomputer ~~is applied to a throttle control microcomputer to~~
executes an electronic throttle control process; and

the first microcomputer stops ~~the~~ electronic throttle control when the time count reaches the predetermined value.

6. (Currently Amended) An electronic control method for a system having a first microcomputer and a second microcomputer, the first microcomputer including a monitor program and a timer, the electronic control method comprising ~~steps of~~:

monitoring, by the first microcomputer, an operation of the second microcomputer based on the monitor program at ~~every~~successive predetermined intervals;

counting, by the timer of the first microcomputer, time from a predetermined value which is set larger than the predetermined interval;

checking, by the first microcomputer, whether the time counted by the counting step is within a predetermined range defined by the predetermined value and the predetermined interval; and

determining, by the first microcomputer, abnormality of ~~execution of the monitor~~ program execution when the time counted ~~by the counting step~~ is outside the predetermined range.

7. (Currently Amended) An electronic control method as in claim 6, further comprising ~~steps of:~~

changing, by the first microcomputer, the time counted ~~by the counting step~~ to the predetermined value when the time counted ~~by the counting step~~ is within the predetermined range.

8. (Currently Amended) An electronic control method as in claim 7, wherein: ~~the determining step determines the~~ an abnormality is determined after the time counted ~~by the counting step~~ reaches the predetermined value.

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic control method as in claim 7, wherein: ~~the determining step determines the~~ an abnormality is determined immediately when the time counted ~~by the counting step~~ becomes outside the predetermined range.